

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

A Consolidated Plan and an Annual Action Plan are submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] as a prerequisite to receiving Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] Program Funds. Cherokee County's 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning document that identifies Cherokee County's overall needs for affordable housing, homelessness needs and services, community and economic development, and public services. The Consolidated Plan outlines the County's strategies, priorities, and objectives for addressing identified needs.

An Annual Action Plan is required for each of the five years of the Consolidated Plan. This document is for the fifth year of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The 2018 Annual Action Plan identifies the specific projects that are proposed for the \$1,288,979 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] allocation that were identified as priorities in Cherokee County's Consolidated Plan and are modified as a result of input from various agencies and organizations in Cherokee County.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

Goshen Valley Boys Ranch is proposing a construction project in which a new wellness center will be built to serve boys in foster care and to improve their living environment. 150 abused/neglected boys will benefit. Cherokee County Senior Services' Home-delivered Meals program staff, along with other programs office staff, are in need of additional space. The Home-delivered Meals program staff do not have a dedicated space for planning, coordinating, or meeting for program services. And, with the County's senior population on the rise, expansion of the senior center is necessary to accommodate the demand on programs. The County's collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to address *Affordable Housing for Low-to-Moderate Income Persons* and to *Eliminate Substandard Housing for LMI Individuals and Families* continues to be administered, successfully assisting 10 households in 2017. In addition to the minor/emergency home repair program, the County will fund the acquisition of lots to construct affordable housing to help address the need to increase affordable housing stock in the County. The Boys and Girls Club provides transportation to after-school and summer programs and activities for youth in the County. The County proposes to continue support of the program which serves 319 LMI youth in the County. In addition to support for the transportation program, the County intends to fund a reading program designed to improve literacy for LMI youth. The program will be administered by the

Boys & Girls Club, and it will benefit 200 3rd – 8th grade youth. Cherokee Child Advocacy Council (Anna Crawford) provides services to children who have experienced child abuse, some of which are Spanish speaking victims. The assistance, provided with CDBG funds, allows the Center to partially support two multi-lingual Counselors/Forensic Interviewers. 147 victim children and 103 non-offending caregivers are expected to benefit from this program. The Children's Haven provides a supervised visitation program to allow children in foster care to visit with non-offending family and/or parents undergoing therapy. The plan includes funding to construct a new playground that is expected to benefit 300 children. MUST Ministries, Inc. continues to work with the homeless and near homeless persons of Cherokee County. MUST's supportive housing program creates an individualized service plan to obtain health services, mainstream benefits, and employment. The County supported this, the only supportive housing program in Cherokee, in 2017 and will continue to support it in 2018. The program expects to serve 66 LMI persons. Next Step Ministries serves developmentally delayed young adults who have aged out of school. Working parents are able to continue to work and have their adult children cared for in a specialized environment. They are seeking funding to replace a vehicle used to transport disabled clients served by the job training program. The project stands to benefit approximately 27 disabled persons.

Public Facility	Project	Funding
Goshen Valley Foundation	Wellness Center Construction Project	\$300,000
Habitat for Humanity	Acquisition	\$175,000
Cherokee County-Senior Services	Expansion of Senior Center - Home-delivered Meals Office Space	\$251,507
The Children's Haven	Playground-Supervised Visitation Program for Children in Foster Care	\$50,000
Cherokee County	Minor/Emergency Home Repair	\$100,000
TOTAL		\$876,507
Non-profit Agency	Project	Funding
Cherokee Child Advocacy Council [Anna Crawford Children's Center]	Two Multi-lingual Counselors Staff Support	\$22,446
Boys & Girls Club	Transportation Program	\$23,000
MUST Ministries, Inc.	Case Management-Supportive Housing	\$25,000
Next Step Ministries, Inc.	Transportation Program (Therapeutic Day Program)	\$35,000
Cherokee County-Senior Services	Transportation Program	\$58,000
Boys & Girls Club	Reading Program	\$29,900
TOTAL		\$193,346
Cherokee County	Planning and Administration	\$219,126
TOTAL		\$1,288,979

Table 1 - Summary of Objectives & Outcomes

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Prior to 2015, Cherokee County received HOME funds through the Georgia Urban County Consortium [GUCC]. The HOME funds were used by the County to address *Affordable Housing for Low-to-Moderate Income [LMI] Persons* and to *Eliminate Substandard Housing for LMI Individuals and Families*. The GUCC, with Cobb County as the lead agency, was disbanded on December 31, 2014, and the County modified its goals as a result of the loss of funding source.

The County partnered with Habitat for Humanity to administer a Minor/Emergency Home Repair program to assist LMI persons 55 years old and older, veterans, and persons with disabilities. The program addresses the goal of providing *Affordable Housing for LMI Persons* and the goal to *Eliminate Substandard Housing for LMI Seniors and Families* by offering up to \$5,000 for minor/emergency repairs.

MUST Ministries, Inc. continues to work with the homeless and near homeless persons of Cherokee County. To address the President's initiative to end homelessness, the County provided funding in 2015 for the acquisition of four (4) transitional housing units for homeless vets and families. For program year 2016, a new service was funded to assist with Case Management in the transitional housing units. The County proposes to continue support of the program in 2018.

Victim children statistics are on the rise for the County and CDBG funds will be used to assist programs geared toward assisting children. The Opioid Crisis facing the County has significantly impacted the increase in the number of children entering foster care. Cherokee Child Advocacy Center's multi-lingual therapeutic and victim advocate programs will be supported with funding. The Children's Haven, a non-profit agency that provides court-appointed special advocates, grief counseling, a clothes closet, and baby supplies, will build a playground for their supervised visitation program for children in foster care.

The County continues to take a proactive approach in project selection to ensure capital projects are committed and shovel-ready. In addition, all prior activities and subrecipients have been evaluated by reviewing past performance. Timeliness will continue to be a concern for the County as long as the annual allocation is not available until after the program year begins and the subrecipients/non-profits are not in a position to begin a project until the award is known.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the planning process for the development of the Annual Action Plan. The County advertises in the Cherokee Tribune and posts on its website the availability of funding and holds two workshops to address the requirements of the program during the application period. Public Comments are solicited for a 30-day period prior to the approval by the Board of Commissioners for submission of the plan to HUD. At the Public Hearings for the Annual Action Plan and CAPER, as well as at each of the workshops, community needs are discussed. Staff also meets with individuals as well as the community stakeholders throughout the year to assess the on-going needs for the County.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Public comments received were limited during the planning process for this action plan. The organizations that attended the workshops provided information about their agencies and the needs within the community in responses on the Needs Assessment Surveys and open discussion. Comments included a need for more transportation services in the County. It was also noted that the state's population of children in foster care has increased significantly as a result of the pervasive Opioid Crisis.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

There were no comments made or views that were deemed "not accepted".

7. Summary